Double Track between Surendranagar and Rajkot in Gujarat

3795. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide double track railway line between Surendranagar and Rajkot in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Stoppage of Rajdhani Express at Anantapur

3796. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a weekly Rajdhani Express from Bangalore to New Delhi; and

(b) whether there is any proposal for stoppage of this train at Anantapur instead of Dharmavaram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Frequency of Nizamuddin-Bangalore Rajdhani Express has been increased from weekly to bi-weekly from 28.3.97.

(b) No, Sir.

Status of TTEs of Railways

3797. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TTEs of Railways are not considered as running staff;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government plan to revive this matter which was discontinued in 1931?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the extant rules, the expression "Running staff refers to staff whose performance of duties is directly connected with the charge of moving trains. As the Travelling Ticket Examiners are not directly connected with the charge of moving trains, they are not classified as Running staff.

(c) No, Sir.

Linking of North-East region with South-East Asia by rail

3798. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to link the North East region with South East Asia through a rail network to facilitate large-scale foreign participation in this under-developed region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken up this matter with China; and

(d) if so, the response of China thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Gauge conversion during Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans

3799. SHRI LAXMAN BANGARU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of conversion of metre gauge, narrow gauge rail lines completed during the Eighth Plan;

(b) the details of conversion of metre gauge, narrow gauge rail lines proposed to be taken up during the Ninth Plan;